



For Immediate Release
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Celebrating Safely is Best Recipe

*December is **Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D)** Prevention Month*

(Sacramento, Calif.) —Close on the heels of the Thanksgiving holiday, December brings a wide array of opportunities for festive celebrations and holiday gatherings. Over the next month, families, friends and co-workers from across California will gather together in homes and restaurants to enjoy the holidays, often traveling long distances and taking part in social gatherings where alcohol is served.

The Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), California Highway Patrol and California Restaurant Association (CRA) want to remind Californian's to celebrate safely at upcoming family and office parties by being a responsible host and making designated drivers available to guests, whether the party is at a private home or at a restaurant.

"The California Restaurant Association is very committed to supporting DUI-prevention efforts," said John Dunlap, CRA president and CEO. "Our members employ thousands of bartenders and wait staff across the state who interact with patrons at the point of consumption. We are committed to helping our customers celebrate in a responsible and sensible manner."

Last year in California, 1,308 people were killed and more than 31,800 were injured in alcohol-related crashes. Additionally, 176,490 arrests were made in 2001 for impaired driving.

"While law enforcement will be doing their part to remove impaired drivers from the roads, every bar and restaurant can help prevent their customers from getting behind the wheel while intoxicated," said Teresa Becher, OTS Interim Director. "Calling a cab seems like a small thing to do, but it can make all the difference."

The OTS, CHP and CRA recommend the following tips for holiday celebrations:

(more)

- Hire a bartender who is trained at preventing alcohol from being abused

- Serve a signature non-alcoholic ‘mocktail’ for guests choosing not to drink
- Have cab service available for guests unable to drive
- Close the bar an hour before the party ends
- Never serve alcohol to minors
- Offer soft drinks, fruit drinks, sparkling cider, bottled water and other non-alcoholic beverages
- Serve appetizers when serving alcoholic drinks

For more information regarding California’s 3D Month campaign, please visit www.ots.ca.gov.

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Editors note: Attached are sample non-alcoholic beverage recipes for inclusion in holiday articles during California’s 3D Month, courtesy of CSAA’s *Cheers!* program.

*Statistics based on California Highway Patrol 2001 provisional data and Department of Motor Vehicles 2002 DUI-MIS Report.